

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write today to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule yesterday to address the need to bring additional federal funding for high speed rail to Central New York and the Mohawk Valley. We appreciate the significant amount of federal Recovery Act dollars that were allocated to ensure that New York's Empire Corridor from Niagara Falls to New York City is a part of the national high speed rail network and we look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve that goal.

As you indicated yesterday, the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act that was signed into law in December contained an additional \$2.5 billion in discretionary funding nationwide for high speed rail development. As we have seen with the Recovery Act funding for all transportation projects, projects that receive a portion of this funding will also bring with them new construction jobs. To that end, we also wish to thank you for agreeing to sit down with us in the coming weeks to discuss potential projects in the Mohawk Valley and Central New York and how we might attract a portion of that \$2.5 billion to further the goal of achieving high speed service on this line.

The residents of Upstate New York understand the incredible economic potential of high speed rail. By streamlining the movement of people and goods between the East Coast and Chicago, the construction of the Erie Canal created a boom of jobs and commercial activity from one end of New York to the other. The inclusion of New York's Empire Corridor in the National High Speed Rail network will do the same and benefit not only the hub cities, but communities all along the line.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to the opportunity to continue this dialogue during our upcoming meeting and beyond.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress



DANIEL B. MAFFEI
Member of Congress